



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Alaska Science Center
4230 University Drive, Suite 201
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4664

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Water resources stakeholders:

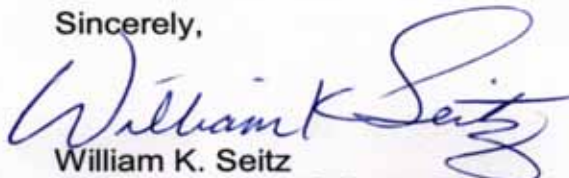
The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) operates a national streamgaging network to provide information about the Nation's water resources. A combination of local, State, and Federal programs fund streamgages operated by the USGS in Alaska. Since 2001, the USGS National Streamflow Information Program (NSIP) has funded some of the streamgages that provide information to meet Federal needs. However, NSIP has not received any increase in funding since 2001, and as a consequence of increasing costs to the program, Alaska's allocation of NSIP funds in fiscal year 2004 is at a level such that three long-term streamgages must be discontinued. The streamgages being discontinued are:

Harding River near Wrangell (ID 15022000), a site with 53 years of record.
Nuyakuk River near Dillingham (ID 15302000), a site with 42 years of record.
Kobuk River near Kiana (ID 15744500), a site with 27 years of record.

The loss of these streamgages seriously affects the ability of scientists, managers, and planners to predict hydrologic hazards, monitor the effects of changing climate, and assess the impacts of hydrologic processes on natural resources. Discontinuation of long-term streamgages is a painful result of declining financial support but, unless State or local funding can be found, we must proceed with this course.

The infrastructure for these streamgages will not be removed immediately. Real-time stream stage records will continue to be served on the Internet at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ak/nwis/>, although the stage-discharge rating will not be maintained, and discharge data will not be served. Gage equipment will be removed during the coming summer when field logistics are simpler. If independent funding can be obtained prior to summer, USGS will be pleased to continue operation of these important streamgages. If you would like more information or would like to help support these important endeavors, please feel free to contact me, Steve Frenzel, or David Meyer at (907) 786-7000. You also can contact the NSIP coordinator—Mike Norris—at (603) 226-7847.

Sincerely,


William K. Seitz
Director, Alaska Science Center